

## CLAIMS

1. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine comprising a rotary valve rotatable within a bore in a cylinder head and a throttle valve adjacent to the inlet port of said rotary valve, characterised in that said throttle valve comprises an aperture adapted to be variably opened and closed between a first fully opened configuration and a second near closed configuration, said aperture being variably opened and closed by a plurality of coplanar plates mounted about the periphery of said aperture and movable towards the central region of said aperture, and at said first fully opened configuration and said second near closed configuration, the central region of said aperture is unobstructed to axial fluid flow.
2. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said plates is pivotally mounted.
3. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the overall length of said throttle valve is small compared to the diameter of said aperture.
4. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 1 wherein each said plate is beak shaped having a concave edge and a convex edge meeting at a tip.
5. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 4 wherein said concave and convex edges are substantially equal in radius of curvature.
6. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 4 wherein said concave and convex edges are substantially equal in radius of curvature to that of said aperture.
7. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 1 wherein movement of said plurality of coplanar plates is actuated by an actuator ring to move said plates simultaneously.
8. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 1 wherein said aperture is substantially circular.

9. A rotary valve internal combustion piston engine as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a fuel delivery means adapted to deliver fuel into the air before it passes through said throttle valve.